

U.S. Embassy Maputo, Mozambique

Message for U.S. Citizens: New Entry and Exit Requirements for Children in South Africa

Effective June 1, 2015

May 8, 2015

This message serves as a reminder that on June 1, the South African Department of Home Affairs will institute new immigration regulations for the entry and exit of minors in South Africa, regardless of nationality. The Department of State has updated the "Entry, Exit, & Visa Requirements" information for South Africa on Travel.State.Gov. We urge all U.S. citizens contemplating travel to South Africa, to read this information carefully.

South Africa issued new immigration regulations which become **effective on June 1**. The following guidance is based on those regulations. All travelers should visit the South African Department of Home Affairs (DHA) website and check the latest requirements with the nearest South African embassy or consulate before traveling. If traveling by air, you may also wish to consult your airline.

Rules for Children – To be enforced on 01 June 2015

These rules apply to children who are entering or departing South Africa. Therefore, the required documents should be retained in all circumstances throughout the stay of the child in South Africa.

The South African regulations use the term "unabridged birth certificate." The exact contents of unabridged birth certificate vary among the different jurisdictions that issue birth certificates (countries, states, counties, cities, etc.), but the key distinction between an "abridged" and "unabridged" birth certificate is that an unabridged birth certificate identifies the parents of the child. **All documents must be original or copies certified as a true copy of the original by a commissioner of oaths or the equivalent commissioning authority. The U.S. Embassy Maputo provides American Citizen Services by appointment to**

notarize documents or prepare certified copies as required. There is no charge for this service when required for use in traveling to South Africa.

- Where BOTH parents are travelling with a child, parents must produce an unabridged birth certificate of the child reflecting the particulars of the parents of the child.
- In the case of ONE parent travelling with a child, he or she must carry an unabridged birth certificate and:

(i) Consent in the form of an affidavit (issued no earlier than 3 months prior to travel dates) from the other parent registered as a parent on the birth certificate of the child authorizing him or her to enter into or depart from South Africa with the child he or she is travelling with (see sample affidavit of consent);

(ii) Copies of the identity documents or passports of the parents or legal guardian of the child;

(iii) A court order granting full parental responsibilities and rights or legal guardianship in respect of the child, if he or she is the parent or legal guardian of the child; or

(iv) Where applicable, a death certificate of the other parent registered as a parent of the child on the birth certificate,

- Where a person is travelling with a child who is NOT his or her biological child, he or she must produce:

(i) A copy of the unabridged birth certificate of the child;

(ii) An affidavit (issued no earlier than 3 months prior to travel dates) from the parents or legal guardian of the child confirming that he or she has permission to travel with the child (see sample affidavit of consent);

(iii) Copies of the identity documents or passports of the parents or legal guardian of the child; and

(iv) The contact details of the parents or legal guardian of the child,

(Note: Where the parents of the child are both deceased, and the child is travelling with a relative or another person related to the child or the child's

parents, the South African authorities have the discretion to approve such a person to enter or depart South Africa with the child.)

- An unaccompanied minor must produce:

(i) Proof of consent from one or both his or her parents or legal guardian, as the case may be, in the form of a letter or affidavit (issued no earlier than 3 months prior to travel dates) for the child to travel into or depart from South Africa. In the case where one parent provides proof of consent, that parent must also provide a copy of a court order issued to him or her in terms of which he or she has been granted full parental responsibilities and rights in respect of the child (see sample affidavit of consent);

(ii) A letter from the person which is to receive the child in South Africa, containing his or her residential address and contact details where the child will be residing;

(iii) A copy of the identity document or valid passport and visa or permanent residence permit of the person who is to receive the child in the South Africa; and

(iv) The contact details of the parents or legal guardian of the child.

Regularly monitor the State Department's website, where you can find current Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and the Worldwide Caution. Read the Country Specific Information for Mozambique. For additional information, refer to the Traveler's Checklist on the State Department's website.

Contact the U.S. embassy for up-to-date information on travel restrictions. You can also call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). Follow us on Twitter and Facebook to have travel information at your fingertips.

The U.S. Embassy in Maputo is located at 193, Avenida Kenneth Kaunda, and is open from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. M-Th, and from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Friday, Tel: 21-49-2797. If you are a U.S. citizen in need of urgent assistance *outside of business hours*, call the embassy's emergency after-hours number: 84-306-6480.

<http://maputo.usembassy.gov>